Message Text

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EO 11652 GDS TAG: CVIS, GE SUBJECT: GDR NIV (STEINIGER, KLAUS)

REF: STATE 97176 OF JUNE 1, 1972 AND PREVIOUS

1. KLAUS STEINIGER, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND FOREIGN EDITOR FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE, CALLED ON CONSULATE APRIL 5 TO APPLY FOR VISA. STEINIGER WISHES VISIT US FOR ONE-MONTH FACT-FINDING TOUR BEGINNING JUNE 1. DURING VISIT HE ALSO PLANS CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH POTENTIAL 1976 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, AS WELL AS MORE IMPORTANT SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN, GOVERNORS AND LABOR LEADERS (LEONARD WOODCOCK, CESAR CHAVEZ, ETC.) PROPOSED ITINERARY IS NY-WASHINGTON DC-WEST VIRGINIA-DETROIT-ALABAMA-CALIFORNIA-NEW YORK. STEINIGER HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY INVITATIONS, BUT SAID HE HOPED MAKE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH PRESS CONTACTS ONCE HE RECEIVED INDICATION THAT VISA WOULD BE ISSUED.

2. ASKED IF GDR WOULD BE PREPARED RECIPROCATE, STEINIGER SAID MATTER BEYOND HISCCOMPETENCE BUT CLAIMED IT COULD BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY BY HIS TRIP, AS WELL BY PROGRESS IN GENERAL NORMALIZATION US-GDR RELATIONS. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL (REFTELS), STEINIGER MADE SIMILAR NOISES IN CONNECTION HIS 1972 TRIP TO COVER ANGELA DAVIS' TRIAL. ALTHOUGH SINCE THAT TIME SOME US JOURNALISTS (E.G. SULZBERGER OF NYT AND TIME MAGAZINE TEAM) HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO GDR CONFIDENTIAL

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IN PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY, THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE PRE-ARRANGED

AND SUBJECT TO GDR PROGRAMMING, THUS IN NO WAY COMPARABLE
TO ROAMING EXERCISE STEINIGER HAS IN MIND. IN VIEW OF THIS,
AS WELL AS TYPE OF "FACT-FINDING" ONE CAN EXPECT FROM
STEINIGER ON BASIS HIS COVERAGE DAVIS TRIAL, WE RECOMMEND
THAT HE BE TOLD HE COULD RECEIVE VISA ONLY IF
RECIPROCITY ASSURED. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT MAY WANT
EXPLORE WITH MAJOR US MEDIA WHETHER ANY VISA REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL TO
GDR ARE PENDING OR, IF NOT, WHETHER ANYONE INTERESTED IN VISITING GDR
FOR PURPOSES SIMILAR IN SCOPE TO THOSE OF STEINIGER.KLEIN

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